Periocular Tumour Excision and Reconstruction : Impact on Quality of Life

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INTRODUCTION

The periocular region sees high rates of cancer compared to the rest of the body and can be affected by several unique tumours. Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is the most common malignancy affecting this region. [1] In Caucasians, BCCs comprise approximately 90% of periocular malignancies.[2]
While complete tumour excision is paramount, patient satisfaction with aesthetic and psychological outcomes is an important factor to consider.

OBJECTIVE

> To assess the impact of periocular malignant tumour excision followed by delayed reconstruction on quality-of-life measures.

METHODOLOGY

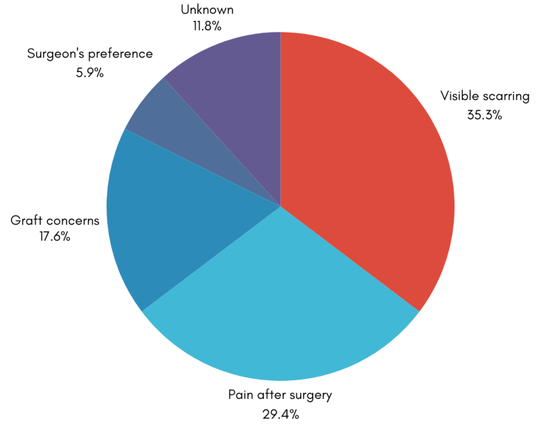
A retrospective review of 147 patients who underwent periocular tumour resection followed by delayed eyelid reconstruction was performed. Impact on quality of life was assessed using a questionnaire evaluating pre-operative information, surgical experience, post-operative recovery, aesthetic outcomes, and psychological impact.

RESULTS

Of the 104 patients who responded to the questionnaire, 98% (102 patients) were satisfied with the information and preoperative care provided. 96% (100 patients) rated their surgical experience positively, and 94% (98 patients) were satisfied with their outcomes.

FACTORS AFFECTING COSMETIC SATISFACTION

17 patients felt their appearance was impacted by the surgery



PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

Affected self confidence

- 6% said their self confidence was affected
- 66% of them felt it affected them negatively

Made them self-conscious

- 11.76 % patients reported to have felt extremely self conscious of their appearance among the 17% who reported their appearance was affected post-operatively.

CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION

Whilst most patients were satisfied with their post-operative outcomes, a minority (11%) experienced negative psychological effects, including concerns about appearance and diminished self-confidence.
Although complete tumour excision with clear margins is the primary objective, transparent communication with patients regarding potential cosmetic outcomes and their impact on self-confidence is essential.

Most studies focus primarily on tumour clearance, recurrence rates, and functional outcomes. However, given the high prevalence and slow growth of basal cell carcinoma (BCC), there is a unique opportunity to collaborate with patients in selecting the most appropriate surgical approach, considering both oncological and cosmetic factors.

This study highlights the importance of considering patient-specific factors such as post-operative scarring, lash loss, graft colour match, and skin type when determining the most suitable surgical approach.

Comprehensive preoperative counselling and procedure-specific literature focusing on cosmetic expectations will ultimately enhance patient satisfaction and overall quality of life.

LIMITATIONS

Questionnaire didn't have a specific question to describe why patient were not satisfied in their own words - Patient were asked to rate their responses on scale of 1 to 5.

Negative psychological effects can be further analyzed using standard questionnaires regarding patient mood and impact on quality of life.

RELATED LITERATURE

1.Joshua M. Moran, Paul O. Phelps,
Periocular skin cancer: Diagnosis and management,
Disease-a-Month, Volume 66, Issue 10, 2020, 101046, ISSN 0011-5029,
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.disamonth.2020.101046

2. Oliphant H, Oliphant T, Clarke L, et al. Access to intraoperative tumour margin control: a survey of the British Oculoplastic Surgery Society. Eye (Lond) 2020;34:1679-84. [Crossref] [PubMed]